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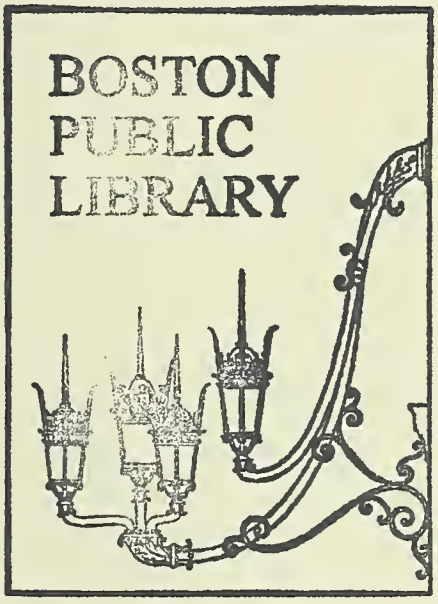

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Community Affairs
Leverett Saltonstall Building, Government Center
100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202

FRANCIS W. SARGENT
Governor
LEWIS S. W. CRAMPTON
Commissioner

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Contact Shel Israel
(617) 727-5885

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CRAMPTON INVITES FOURTH PARK PLAZA SUBMISSION

BOSTON--Lewis S. W. Crampton, Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs (DCA) today invited a fourth submission of the Park Plaza Urban Renewal plan.

In a letter hand delivered today to Boston Redevelopment Authority Director Robert T. Kenney, Crampton noted the developer of the thrice-rejected plan appears ready to meet financial and environmental conditions laid out by DCA Sept. 19.

At that time, the BRA and developers, Boston Urban Associates (BUA) balked at the DCA conditions and the plan was rejected on Sept. 28. Crampton had insisted that the stipulations were essential for state approval, and has maintained that position throughout the controversy.

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take 2 of 3

Fourth Park Plaza Submission

Of primary debate, was whether DCA could withhold environmental approval of the project until a building mass and relocation study could be undertaken six to eight months after an initial go-ahead from the state.

Both BRA and BUA argued for the DCA to step out and allow another state official or an appointed three-man board to make the decision. Crampton, however, asserted that it would be a violation of the state's Environmental Protection Law for his department to step aside.

Also, at issue were several financial conditions, which DCA had argued would tighten up the financial commitment of the state, while assuring the public that the proposed developer could be severed from the 63-acre development, if he lacked financial staying power.

In a letter to DCA last Friday, BRA Director Kenney outlined six areas in which a new supplementary letter of intent would be modified to comply with the DCA conditions should there be a fourth submission.

"We believe that these modifications...should adequately meet the Department's most recent objections," Kenney stated in the letter.

In Crampton's reply today, he said that DCA was "gratified" by the new BRA position, and invited a fourth submission.

But, he emphasized, "This invitation is in no way a promise that approval will be forthcoming, rather it is intended to encourage you to make the improvements you have outlined."

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Crampton said today he expects that public hearings will begin within ten days after the new submission is received. "I expect the hearings will be considerably briefer this time around, since so much ground was covered at the hearings in the recent past," he said.

Public hearings on the third submission lasted more than 120 hours.